



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Falls Church Participates in Regional Emergency Training Exercise

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – City of Falls Church emergency personnel participated in a regional emergency training exercise on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006. The Patriot Challenge II exercise was the continuation of the Patriot Challenge I exercise in which regional jurisdictions participated in June 2005.

The Patriot Challenge II Exercise served as a valuable training opportunity to assess the ability of select emergency operations centers in the Northern Virginia area to coordinate and respond to multiple improvised explosive device attacks. The four-hour exercise focused on multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency coordination for a regional response and recovery operation.

The simulation exercise enabled Falls Church City and other participating jurisdictions to practice and evaluate situational assessment, decision-making, and coordination interoperability.

During the exercise, Falls Church City successfully demonstrated the ability to staff and operate the City's Emergency Operations Center; to handle a City-wide incident while maintaining participation in a regional incident; to gather, receive, and disseminate information; to coordinate the release of public information in a timely manner; and to participate in the region's decision-making process.

Jurisdictions that participated in the exercise include: the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, Manassas, and Manassas Park; the Town of Herndon; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties; Virginia state; regional hospitals; and Potomac Mills Mall.

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Please see attached photographs of Falls Church City emergency personnel participating in the Patriot Challenge II Exercise at the City's Emergency Operations Center.

